

In the Claims

The following Listing of Claims replaces all prior versions in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A method of operating a wireless communication system comprising:
 - in a controller, receiving streaming data contention-window slot assignment requests from streaming transmitter units;
 - in the controller, assigning contention-window slot numbers to the requesting streaming transmitter units;
 - in the controller, sending an indication of available contention-window slots to other transmitter units; and
 - in the other transmitter units, using a randomly selected contention-window slot to begin transmitting, wherein the randomly selected contention-window slot is selected from contention-window slots other than the assigned contention-window slots,

wherein the indication of the available contention-window slots is an indication of the first unassigned slot.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Currently amended) The method of claim 2-1 wherein the randomly selected slot is selected from slots greater or equal to the first unassigned slot.
4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the streaming data is audio data.
5. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the streaming data is video data.
6. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the number of assigned contention-window slots is limited.

7. (Currently amended) A wireless communication system comprising:
- a controller adapted to receive streaming data contention-window slot assignment requests from streaming transmitter units, the controller adapted to assign contention-window slot numbers to requesting streaming transmitter units and send an indication of available contention-window slots to other transmitter units;
 - at least one streaming transmitter unit adapted to begin transmitting in a contention-window time slot assigned by the controller; and
 - at least one other transmitter unit adapted to begin transmitting in a randomly selected contention-window slot, the randomly selected contention-window slot being selected from contention-window slots other than the assigned contention-window slots, the at least one streaming transmitter unit and at least one other transmitter unit sensing the transmit medium and not beginning to transmit in a contention window if another unit has begun transmitting,
- wherein the indication of the available contention-window slots is an indication of the first unassigned contention-window slot.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Original) The wireless communication system of claim 7 wherein the streaming data transmitted by the streaming transmitter unit comprises audio data.

10. (Original) The wireless communication system of claim 7 wherein the streaming data transmitted by the streaming transmitter unit comprises video data.

11. (Original) The wireless communication system of claim 7 wherein a limited number of assignable contention-window slots are available.

12 - 22. (Canceled)